



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Theodore L. Gatsas
Mayor

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Contact: Mayor Ted Gatsas
Phone: (603) 624-6500

Manchester to host 2010 World Championship Chili Cook-off!

MANCHESTER, NH - - Today Mayor Ted Gatsas announced that Manchester will host the 2010 World's Championship Chili Cook-off (WCCC). The event is scheduled for October 1st – 3rd at Veteran's Park in downtown Manchester and is in the 44th year of this event.

"I am very excited to host the Chili Cook-off in partnership with the International Chili Society and showcase the City of Manchester," began Mayor Gatsas. The International Chili Society (ICS) is a non-profit organization that sanctions official chili cook-off's worldwide. All winners of ICS cook-off's qualify to compete for cash prizes and awards at the World's Championship Chili Cook-off held annually in October. The ICS is the largest food contest, festival organization in the world.

"The cook-off will bring tens of thousands of tourists to the City in a peak season bringing visitors and revenue to our airport, our hotels, our restaurants and our city businesses," continued Mayor Gatsas. Previous host cities include: Las Vegas, Nevada; Phoenix, Arizona; Los Angeles, California and Omaha, Nebraska. Manchester beat out Las Vegas and two California locations to become the host city. "The economic impact to Manchester is significant; previous host cities have estimated a direct impact of roughly \$1.5 million," added Jay Minkarah, Director of Economic Development for the City of Manchester.

The WCCC also includes a component to spotlight our local flavor. Area restaurants will have the opportunity to compete in a restaurant division cook-off. The public is invited to participate by voting for the People's Choice Cook-off winner. Individuals can also enter the Miss Chili Pepper and Mr. Hot Sauce contest.

The host hotel for the WCCC is the Radisson Hotel Center of New Hampshire. Additional sponsors and a benefit charity will be announced in coming weeks.

For more information about the International Chili Society and the World's Championship Chili Cook-off please visit www.chilicookoff.com. A local website is in the process of being constructed and will be available shortly by visiting the city homepage at www.manchesternh.gov.

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International Chili Society Logo Attached

One City Hall Plaza • Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 • (603) 624-6500
www.manchesternh.gov